

HOUSE No. 63

By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, petition of William M. Straus relative to elections to fill vacancies in certain county positions. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO COUNTY ELECTIONS FOR CERTAIN VACANCIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out Section 142 and inserting in place thereof the following
3 section:

4 Section 142. Notwithstanding any general or special law or
5 rule or regulation to the contrary, upon failure to elect or upon a
6 vacancy in the office of district attorney, register of probate,
7 sheriff, clerk of the courts or in Suffolk county, of the supreme
8 judicial or superior court, at any time preceding the last nine cal-
9 endar months of the term, the governor shall cause precepts to be
10 issued to the proper officers directing them to call an election
11 within 120 days for the election of said officer.

12 Upon a vacancy in the office of district attorney, registrar of
13 probate or sheriff, the first assistant district attorney, the first
14 assistant registrar of probate or the special sheriff, as the case may
15 be, shall assume the duties of the office until a district attorney,
16 registrar of probate or sheriff is elected and qualified.